

Message Text

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ORIGIN ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: HONDURAS/EL SALVADOR: COMMITTEE OF SEVEN

1. THE COMMITTEE OF SEVEN MET OCTOBER 4 WITH FOREIGN MINISTER BORGONOVO. SEVILLA SACASA GAVE BORGONOVO THE SAME DOCUMENT DESCRIBED REFTEL, AND SUGGESTED THE POSSIBILITY THAT BATRES AND BORGONOVO MEET JOINTLY WITH THE COMMITTEE.

2. AS DID BATRES WHEN HE MET WITH THE COMMITTEE ON JUNE 24, BORGONOVO SAID HE WOULD STUDY THE DOCUMENT AND WOULD REPORT BACK. COSTA RICA SUGGESTED THAT THE COMMITTEE MIGHT BECOME MORE INVOLVED IN NEGOTIATING THE DISPUTE, NOTING THAT MUCH GOOD WILL HAD BEEN GENERATED IN THE WAKE OF THE HURRICANE FIFI DISASTER AND THE SUBSEQUENT RELIEF EFFORTS. BORGONOVO DEMURRED STATING THAT HONDURAS MIGHT FEEL IT WAS BEING TAKEN ADVANTAGE OF IN THE PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES. GUATEMALA THEN SUGGESTED THAT THE TWO COUNTRIES SHOULD CONTINUE BILATERAL DISCUSSIONS BEFORE

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REQUESTING ANY INTERVENTION FROM THE COMMITTEE. - -

3. BORGONOVO EMPHASIZED FOR THE COMMITTEE THAT ALMOST ALL OUTSTANDING ISSUES WERE WITHIN REACH OF A SETTLEMENT, WITH THE EXCEPTION OF BORDER ISSUES. HE SAID THAT THE BORDER

ISSUE WAS SO SENSITIVE POLITICALLY THAT THETD THE TWO COUNTRIES WERE STILL FAR APART, AND COULD NOT EVEN AGREE ON THE SAME CRITERIA AS A BASIS FOR DISCUSSION. HONDURAS, BORGONOVO SAID, INSISTED ON A LEGALISTIC APPROACH BASED UPON PAST LEGAL OPINIONS AND DOCUMENTS, WHEREAS THE GOES PREFERRED TO EXAMINE THE PROBLEM IN TERMS OF PRESENT REALITIES OF POPULATION DENSITY AND LAND USE. BORGONOVO BROADLY HINTED THAT THE COMMITTEE OF SEVEN WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO HELP IN THIS MATTER AT PRESENT.

4. COMMENT: ASIDE FROM THE ABOVE REFERENCES TO THE BORDER ISSUE, THERE WAS NO DISCUSSION OF OTHER SUBSTANTIVE MATTERS. BORGONOVO DID NOT INDICATE HOW CURRENT BILATERAL DISCUSSIONS WERE GOING AND MADE NO MENTION OF THIRD PARTY MEDIATION. KISSINGER

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